(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.

The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare.

Health Facilities for People Living below Poverty Line

3681. SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of measures taken by Government for providing health facilities to those living below poverty line; and

(b) how far these measures have been effective to achieve the desired objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government is making every effort to achieve better health care particularly for the poor and disadvantaged through variety of measures including implementation of National Health Programmes such as Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Blindness and AIDS, establishment of vast rural infrastructure and augmentation of medical manpower. Services at the health facilities are provided free to persons below the poverty level. National Illness Assistance Fund has also been set up to provide financial assistance to poor patients.

As a result of these measures Small Pox and Guineaworm are considered as having been eradicated. Polio is on the verge of being eradicated. Leprosy, Kala-azar and filariasis can be expected to be eliminated in the forseeable future. There has also been a substantial drop in the infant mortality rate. Expectancy of life has also increased.